



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

Regular Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting Minutes September 23, 2026

1. Present Thomas McCartney, Chairman
Daniel Kirchheimer, Vice Chairman
David Harrington, Commissioner (Absent)
Mark Tomko, Commissioner
Keith Purdy, Commissioner

District Staff: Susan Bowen, Fire District Secretary
Erika Pereira, Assistant Fire District Secretary
Paige Willes-Brown, Director of Purchasing
Marisa Butler, Fire District Treasurer
Clay Ellis, Director of Communications
Dusty McCartney, Director of Facilities
David Bowen, Quartermaster

Others Present: Charles Paffie, Dept. Chief
Steve Langeland, Assistant Fire Chief, Station 1
Scott Orcutt, Captain, Station 4
Bob Hamilton, 2nd Lieutenant, Station 2
Colin Allis, 2nd Lieutenant, Station 3
Thomas Bowen, Foreman, Station 3
Devin Hansen, President, Station 3
Carle Truman, Deputy Fire Marshal
and 3 members of the Public

2. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner McCartney.

3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner McCartney.

4. Executive Session

4.1 Motion by Commissioner Tomko and seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of individual under Public Officers Law Section 105 (f) at 6:32 p.m.
All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer and seconded by Commissioner Purdy to exit the executive session and return to the regular meeting at 6:46 p.m.
All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)



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Motion carried.

4.2 Motion by Commissioner Tomko and seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve the hiring of Susan Bowen as the Fire District Secretary upon her retirement from the Town of Vestal as the Secretary to the Board of Fire Commissioner to begin on October 1, 2026, at the starting rate of \$31.88 per hour and to include 4 weeks' vacation.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

5. Scheduled Appointments (Guests) - None

6. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

6.1 Motion by Commissioner Purdy and seconded Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve the August 26, 2026, regular meeting minutes and September 2, 2026, special meeting minutes.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington) Abstained: 1 (Tomko)
Motion Carried.

7. Correspondence Report

7.1 Received and filed from FireFly Admin Inc. Recurring Payment Register for October 2026.

7.2 Request from AFDSNY to send communication to Governor Hochul to sign bill A.6790/S.6233 to increase the personal income tax credit to \$800.00.

The Board of Fire Commissioner signed the letter to be sent to Governor Hochul's office.

8. Bid Openings - None

9. Resolutions - None

10. Operations Report – Chief Paffie (or Designee)

10.1 Chief Report Submitted

The report covers recent fire department activities, training, community events, equipment updates, and budget considerations.

- Fire Response and Mutual Aid Activities Vestal Fire responded to 82 calls, including mutual aid to Apalachin and Endicott, and numerous calls to Binghamton University.
- Community Engagement and Memorial Events included funerals for Life Member Dave Hitt, an annual 9/11 Memorial with United Way, and safety messages at local company picnic.
- Fire Training and Educational Opportunities Training sessions included Rapid Intervention Teams, Wildland Search Rescue, Smoke Divers orientation, and online courses on Lithium-ion batteries and fire pumps.



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- Fire Prevention and School Outreach Fire prevention events are scheduled at schools, and the Fire Expo.
- Equipment and Facility Updates Requests include changing Engine 5 to Engine 9, updates on water tank off-line issues on Knapp Road area, and discussions on radio protocols and new members receiving fuel pins.
- Budget and Apparatus Planning Budget requests cover SCBA masks, quotes for new and used SCBA gear, and plans to possibly upgrade to Midi 3 apparatus.
- The Chief raised the issue that all fire stations have video cameras that are actively recording. There is a belief that it is a legal requirement to post notices informing individuals that they are being recorded. It was also noted that recording audio may not be legal.
- The Chief inquired about the plan for a recently received \$400,000 grant for a second set of turnout gear. The exact amount is approximately \$418,000.
 - A committee will be formed with members from all four stations to conduct an autonomous review of turnout gear options.
 - The committee will be selected by the fire department and is tasked with exploring various vendors, hosting demos, and making a final recommendation.
 - This approach is intended to gather fresh opinions and not simply follow established paths.
 - The district will be required to go to competitive bid if the committee's recommended specification is not on a state contract.
 - The grant was a V-Fire grant from the state and was submitted to FEMA around March 2026.

11. Department Business Report – President Eaton (or Designee) – No Report

12. Station Reports (Fund Raiser/Special Events/Member Requests)

a. Station 1 – Reported that the truck bay floor was completed and station interior walls were painted. The renovations have resulted in a noticeable improvement in morale, with members being very happy with the results.

b. Station 2

12b.1 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve Station 2 Auxiliary to hold a bake sale at the station on November 3, 2026, from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. Coverage is members of the auxiliary during that time.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

c. Station 3 – None

d. Station 4 – None

Chief Paffie emphasized the need for better communication and visibility into station-level activities.

- The Chief has communicated to all advisory board members that he needs to be kept informed of all activities, such as Halloween events and community visits.
- This is a matter of operational command and responsibility, as the Chief is accountable for all department activities.



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- It is crucial for the Chief to be aware of events to ensure proper procedure and insurance coverage in case of injury.
- The organizational structure requires the department operated by the Chief to be reportable to the district.

13. Membership (New and Current)

13.1 Request from past station 1 member, Jason Felice, who has elected to permanently waive his rights to any benefits that he may have earned in the Length of Service Awards Program. Therefore Mr. Felice has requested that his name be permanently deleted as an eligible participant in the Length of Service Awards Program as of August 31, 2026.

Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to accept Jason Felice's request to be permanently deleted as an eligible participant in the Vestal Fire District Length of Service Awards Program as of August 31, 2026

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

13.2 Review the request and application from Station 4 to approve Avery Harris to become a member of the Vestal Fire Department Inc. at Station 4.

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Tomko to conditionally accepts the application of Avery Harris to become a member of Station 4 pending the successful completion of the required physical.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington) Motion carried.

13.3 Review the request and application from Station 4 to approve Jesse Ferri to become a member of the Vestal Fire Department Inc. at Station 4.

Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to conditionally accepts the application of Jesse Ferri to become a member of Station 4 pending the successful completion of the required physical.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

13.4 Review the request and application from Station 3 to approve Landon Miller to become a member of the Vestal Fire Department Inc. at Station 3.

Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to conditionally accepts the application of Landon Miller to become a member of Station 3 pending the successful completion of the required physical.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.



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14. Commissioner Report

a. Commissioner McCartney – Administrative/Policy

14a.1 - Commissioner McCartney reported being out of town for about a month; highlights included assisting Commissioner Kirchheimer with painting Station One and participating in a special Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.

b. Commissioner Harrington – Financial/Records Management/Quality Assurance/LOSAP

c. Commissioner Tomko – Training/Safety Programs/Fred Singer Training Facility

14c.1 Commissioner Tomko report being out of town most of the month did not have much to report on.

- Commissioner McCartney confirmed Bruce Willis is involved; an engineer-recommended mason contractor requested a site look to quote repairs to concrete blocks; Bruce was to meet the contractor; follow-up email sent; awaiting response.
- Plan is to execute repairs per engineer's recommendations (concrete/thermal blocks) using a contractor, not Bruce directly.
- Updated Physical listing was given to the Commissioners and Chief Paffie with Chief Paffie verifying with each station that members who have not completed required physicals have been removed from active duty until completion, to prevent them from riding on apparatus.

d. Commissioner Kirchheimer – Facilities/Information Technology/Physical Security/Human Resources

14d.1 Facilities updates across stations, groundskeeping, custodial, and snowplow prevailing wage clarification.

- Station One floor: One corner near the Cascade system requires rework (ground down; to be repaired); overall result looks excellent.
- Station One walls: Station volunteers painted (district purchased paint); added a red perimeter line for fire service delineation.
- Station One maintenance: Urinal issues resolved by John Weber; small electrical work completed including a small panel for the air compressor and a light replacement.
- Station Three: Rear concrete work is scheduled; contractor indicated roughly four weeks out as of last month; awaiting start and estimate confirmation.
- Station Four: Fencing for the mezzanine approved and in process; not yet started.
- Station One meeting room: Dusty installed a revised switch setup for meeting room lights.
- Snowplow services: Discussed prevailing wage, contract terms, and fuel surcharges with Pritchard.
 - Vendor inquired with the Department of Labor and indicated prevailing wage is not required as it is considered "building services."
 - Commissioner Kirchheimer to follow up to confirm prevailing wage requirement status for snowplow services with the Department of Labor.
- Groundskeeping: Proceeding well; Scott Coleman will transition to fall cleanup soon.
- Custodial: Within budget; coordination with vendor to engage a subcontractor for repeat stripping and waxing of applicable station floors.

14d.2 Physical security policy progress and IT enhancements for apparatus laptops and



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authentication workflow.

- Physical security: Physical Security Director Colin White expects key access and security policy to be ready for approval this evening with prior updates; camera policy forthcoming; will assess need for “recording in progress” signage.
- Access adjustments made for contractors and members; no notable security events in the last month.
- IT: Rich Divine added to support apparatus laptop project; laptops installed in frontline apparatus and chief cars; focus shifts to maximizing utility.
 - Coordinating with Pyramid and Broome County for CAD imaging; configuring I Am Responding, RedNMX/Red Alert for call reports, Zello; improving maps; optimizing quick deploy use.
 - Multi-factor authentication may hinder quick deployment; Chief 321’s laptop is the pilot for changes and feedback.

14d.3 Request for feedback on laptop bracket installations to address concerns about functionality and safety.

- Concern noted that some are unhappy with laptop bracket and equipment installs; no specific feedback received yet.
- Chief Paffie to collect and return specific commentary from chiefs regarding laptop install concerns (which trucks, what issues)
- IT/Installers to review and modify installations as needed to ensure functionality, feasibility, and safety based on received feedback.

14d.4 Multiple department updates including IT and member relations

- Station One IT: Cabling was moved to relocate the DOC from the lounge to the meeting room; work is complete, though minor printer issues remain.
- Service Performance: Satisfaction was expressed with Pyramid’s ticket handling.
- Cost Outlook: Director Josh Fischbeck advises that 2026 is a good year for significant IT infrastructure upgrades due to expected price increases of 20% or more in 2027.
- Cybersecurity: A policy has been created but needs to be socialized and published.
- Member Relations:
 - Coordination is underway with President Andy Eaton for the banquet and awards. The awards committee met last week, and the banquet is scheduled for October 17, 2026.
 - There are ongoing inquiries from members regarding gym membership.

e. Commissioner Purdy – Asset/Equipment/Fleet Management

14e.1 Quartermaster Report

- Inventory was completed through the end of August 2026.
- A list of two pairs of expired bunker pants was submitted for disposal.
- A request was made to dispose of failed fire hose using the same process as expired turnout gear.
 - Quartermaster David Bowen to check with the water department to see if they want the old fire hose before disposing of it.



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- A request was made to dispose of an old dishwasher from Station Three, asset tag #3466.
- Assistant Chief Miller was thanked for cleaning the basement to create space for the ATV.

14e.2 Request to approve from Quartermaster David Bowen to discard expired turnout pants, hose, and old Station 3 dishwasher as follows:

BRAND	CONDITION	SN#	DATE MFG.	TOV TAG
CHAMPION	UNUSABLE			# 3466

MAKE	CONDITION	SN#	DATE MFG.
LION	USED	007719711	12/2015
LION	USED	007710431	12/2015

SIZE	CONDITION	HOSE #
5"	Failed	5071
5"	Failed	5066
5"	Failed	5069
5"	Failed	5240
5"	Failed	5059A
5"	Failed	5000
5"	Failed	5054
5"	Failed	5004
5"	Failed	5009
5"	Failed	5097
2 1/2"	Failed	2048
2 1/2"	Failed	2018
2 1/2"	Failed	2063
1 3/4"	Failed	1176
1 3/4"	Failed	1370
1 3/4"	Failed	1373
1 3/4"	Failed	1371
1 3/4"	Failed	1284
1 3/4"	Failed	1098
1 3/4"	Failed	1210
1 3/4"	Failed	1253

SIZE	CONDITION	HOSE #
1 3/4"	Failed	1192
1 3/4"	Failed	1080
1 3/4"	Failed	1231
1 3/4"	Failed	1215



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Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve from Quartermaster David Bowen to discard expired turnout pants, hose, and old Station 3 dishwasher.
All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

14e.3 Fleet Maintenance: Fleet report can be found at the end of these minutes that give a description of all repair tickets and maintenance items.

- The process for handling surplus vehicles and equipment was clarified.
 - Decisions regarding surplus vehicles are made by consensus among the fire department and district, not by a single individual.
 - These decisions are voted on in a public format and will be documented in official correspondence.
 - The department is currently managing a surplus of old inventory while acquiring new items, leading to temporary space constraints, particularly at the new Station Four.
- The new chief's cars are undergoing final outfitting with an expected service date in late October or early November 2026.

15. Director of Communications

15.1. Funding for voter postcards and news release for Fire Expo

- A news release about the Fire Expo (scheduled for October 3, 2026) will be distributed early next week (week of September 28, 2026).
- A request was made to potentially repeat last year's postcard campaign, which combined a message for the annual vote with a membership drive.
 - Decide at the next meeting whether to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$4,000 for the postcard campaign. After further discussion, it was confirmed that if the expenditure is approved at the next meeting in October, there will be sufficient lead time for the project.

16. Secretary Report

16.1 Set the Date for the public hearing on the 2027 Fire District Budget.

- Public Hearing to be on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
- Post Notice of Budget Hearing on the fire district website on October 2, 2026.
- Send notice to the Town Clerk's office for posting September 29, 2026.
- Place notice in the paper October 9, 2026 for Town Crier and October 14, 2026 for the Press and Sun-Bulletin.

16.2 Resolution 2026-008 - On August 12, 2026, the Vestal Fire District Board of Fire Commissioner adopted a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Capital Reserve Fund for Vehicle Equipment Acquisition. On August 16, 2026, notice of the adoption of such resolution with an abstract of its terms and notice that such resolution is subject to a permissive referendum was published in the official newspaper of the Vestal Fire District. The deadline to receive petition for a permissive referendum was September 14, 2026, to which no petition has been filed.



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16.2 Discussion and approval of Workman's Comp Carrier.

- The current workers' compensation policy expires on October 2, 2026.
- The expiring premium was \$97,940, and all new quotes are nearly half that cost due to a loss ratio under 15%.
- Three quotes were received:
 - Perma (current carrier):
 - One-year option: \$52,010.
 - Two-year option: \$49,423 (Year 1) and \$47,664 (Year 2), contingent on maintaining a loss ratio under 15%.
 - Comp Alliance: \$45,158 (one-year).
 - Fire District Mutual: \$45,336 plus a separate bill of \$334 for paid employees.
- The Board noted their positive 12-year relationship with Perma and the value of the discount received for their Lexipol safety program.
- The significant premium reduction was attributed to the department's successful safety efforts.

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve PERMA as the fire district's workman's compensation carrier for 2026-2027 under the two-year option at a cost of \$49,423 for year 1 and \$47,664 for year 2 contingent on maintaining a loss ratio under 15% .

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

16.3 An upcoming facility inspection by the workers' compensation carrier, Perma, needs to be scheduled.

- Perma has requested an inspection of all fire district facilities.
- The carrier initially proposed October 22 or November 3, 2026, at 9:30 AM.
- November 3 was rejected because it is Election Day and the stations will be in use as polling places.
- The inspection will involve reviewing policies and then a physical tour of the facilities, similar to one conducted in 2022.
- Secretary Susan Bowen to coordinate with PERMA to schedule the facility inspection on a suitable date ensuring a commissioner is available to attend.

16.4 An update for the RediMax software has been released and must be installed on all computers.

- An updated patch for RediMax is now available.
- When logging in, users will see a box in the bottom-right corner prompting them to check it and install the update.
- The new version is 2.0.27.
- After this manual update, future updates will be automatic. A confirmation was directed to Chief Paffie to ensure the information was heard.



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17. Elections (Annual or Special)

17.1 Petition for Office of Commissioner will be available starting September 25. Signatures of all signers of the nominating petitions must be dated between October 1 and November 18 and must be filed with the Secretary of the Fire District by end of business on November 18, 2026. The term for this office is for 2027 to 2031.

18. Treasurer Report

18.1 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve August 2026 Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, and Budget vs. Actual report. All reports and bank reconciliations were reviewed by Commissioner McCartney.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

18.2 Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to adopt the Proposed 2027 Vestal Fire District Budget including Fund Balance Projection for 2027 with a total appropriation, including the foam district, in the amount of \$3,593,192.00.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

18.3 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to deposit check received from City of Binghamton for Binghamton Fire Department in the amount of \$500.00 for use of the Fred Singer Training Facility.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

19. Approval to Properly Audit and Pay Claims as Submitted

19.1 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the Audit of Claims for 2026 Expenses dated September 23, 2026, in total amount of \$427,962.43.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

20. Director of Purchasing Report

20.1 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to retroactively approve P. Willes to write a check to the West Corners Fire Department in the total amount of \$ 225.00 for the Rapid Intervention Teams Class on September 11, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and September 12, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.



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20.2 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve to purchase (1) Sensit Gold G2 Gas Meter (LEL/CO/O2/H2S) with Hard Case in the total amount of \$2,776.98 from Colden Enterprises.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

20.3 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve debit card expenses from August 2026 in the amount of \$7,442.41.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

20.4 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve credit card expenses from August 2026 in the amount of \$10,654.95.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

20.5 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve all Chief's Monthly Mileage Reports from August 26, 2026, to September 23, 2026.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

20.6 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to deposit check received from Camfil USA Inc. in the amount of \$111.48 due to credit memo for return of (12) Air Handler Merv 9 Filters for Station 4.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

20.7 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the following budget modification request:

Increase the 2026 adopted budget by appropriating funds from capital reserve fund balance and increasing account A3410.208 for purchase of RAT Truck

Increase in Funding Source

Account Code	Account Description	Amount Requested
A1011CR	Appropriated Cap Res Fund Bal	\$300,000.00

Increase in Expenditure Appropriation

Account Code	Account Description	Amount Requested
A3410.208	Capital Reserve ~ Vehicle	\$300,000.00

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)



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Motion carried.

20.8 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve the following budget modification request:

Increase the 2026 adopted budget by appropriating funds from unappropriated fund balance and increasing account A3410.208 for remaining amount for the purchase of RAT Truck.

Increase in Funding Source

Account Code	Account Description	Amount Requested
A1011	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$40,000.00

Increase in Expenditure Appropriation

Account Code	Account Description	Amount Requested
A3410.207	New Vehicle/ Apparatus	\$40,000.00

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

20.9 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve reimbursement to Chief Charles Paffie for use of personal vehicle for Fire Department and Fire District business at the per diem rate of 0.76 cents a mile for a total of 602 miles in the amount of \$457.52.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

21. Unfinished Business

21.1 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve Custom Design Build to complete Kitchen Area Renovations at Station 3 in the amount of \$2,300.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)
Motion carried.

21.2 Discussion and motion to purchase Kenwood portables for Midi 3 (RAT) as proposed by Chief Paffie.

- Discussion raised to assess current radios (training, safety) before purchasing; chiefs will discuss in their meeting.
- Kenwood portable for rapid attack truck was tabled until next month to allow chiefs to evaluate needs.

21.3 Discussion and motion to purchase Scott SCBA Paks and masks for Midi 3 (RAT) or Midi 4 as proposed by Chief Paffie.

- The Chief recommended accepting the quote from MES for new SCBA units, which is based on state contract pricing.
- The total cost to equip the new Midi 3 and Midi 4 with the latest NFPA standard-compliant air



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packs is \$75,687.36.

Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to purchase New SCBA Units at a total cost of \$75,687.36 to outfit Midi 3 and Midi 4.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

22. New Business.

22.1 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve Matco Electric Corporation to complete Station 1 Electrical Upgrades & Repairs in the amount of \$3,075.20.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

22.2 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer for discussion for the purchase of Kenwood software and associated cables for programing Vestal Fire's Kenwood radio equipment in a total cost of \$266.49 from JPJ Electronic Communications.

Motion to purchase of Kenwood software and associated cables for programming in a total cost of \$266.49 from JPJ Electronic Communications.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

22.3 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy for the Local Ham Radio Club to tentatively use Station 2 meeting room for six Saturdays beginning on October 17, 2026, to November 21, 2026, starting at 10 a.m. for Advance Amateur Radio Licensing class.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

22.4 Discussion regarding D5 Consulting Group LLC to provide training to the Vestal Fire Department in 2026 or 2027.

- Recap: Earlier discussion this year on bringing D5 Consulting Group LLC for training on serving the public, professionalism, and judgment in the fire service; 4-hour session by a professional trainer with public safety background; proposal priced at \$3,750.
- Plan: Commissioners to review and discuss with Chief Paffie, then decide at the October 2026 meeting whether to proceed in calendar year 2026 or 2027.
- Statement of abstention: One commissioner will abstain from voting due to employment with D5 Consulting Group LLC.

22.5 The manufacturer, TriStar, initially requested a change to a Detroit Diesel engine, which the board approved. The Detroit Diesel engine has since become unavailable, while the originally specified Cummins engine is now available again. TriStar requires a new letter from the board confirming acceptance of the originally bid product (the Cummins engine) to proceed. Commissioner Purdy to send a letter to TriStar



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confirming the board accepts the change back to the originally bid Cummins engine.

23. Policies and Procedures

23.1 Review and approve Policy # 101.00 – Purchasing Policy.

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve Policy #101.00 – Purchasing Policy with changes updated authorized purchasers, threshold increases and defensive driving reimbursement.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

23.2 Review and approve Policy # 208.00 – Key and Access Control Policy.

Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve Policy # 208.00 – Key and Access Control Policy with the - adjustment to language in Item 12 concerning visitors and contractors.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

23.3 Review and approve Policy # 402.00 – Firefighter Physical Fitness Training Program Policy

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve Policy # 402.00 – Firefighter Physical Fitness Training Program Policy.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

24. Public Input Session – Members of the public may speak on meeting items only.

- Bob Hamilton noted that Animal Adventure uses fire hoses to build wings for their exhibits. They suggested that if the water department does not want the used hoses, Animal Adventure would likely take all of them. In relation to the potential donation, Commissioner McCartney requested that the recipient formally acknowledge the donation from the Vestal Fire District.
- Bob Hamilton reported that new heating equipment remains in boxes at station two, with one large box in the storeroom off the truck bay. Members are repeatedly asking when the equipment will be installed, especially with the heating season approaching. Commissioner McCartney confirmed that the installation is "in the plan" with Weber's Plumbing and Heating, but no specific timeline was given.
- The radios previously approved for donation by the board have been delivered to the Boy Scouts. The organization was reportedly "thrilled" with the donation. The Boy Scouts have a member knowledgeable enough to handle the Motorola equipment recall. Bob Hamilton is continuing to work on identifying more surplus equipment for them based on the board's prior approval.
- A question was raised about repurposing turnout gear that is brand new but has expired under NFPA regulations for interior use (a 10-year limit). The suggestion was made to change the reflective striping to reclassify it for exterior use. The board agreed this is a valid item for discussion, noting the high cost of new gear (approximately \$10,000 per set). It was noted that two specific sets of turnout pants are in poor condition (ripped liners) and should be disposed of regardless.
- Secretary Susan Bowen requested permission to use Station Three on November 14, 2026, for aa



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Association of Fire Districts for the State of New York regional training. The training is scheduled for four hours, likely from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The board approved the use without a formal motion.\

- Chief Paffie reported that the windows, particularly in the towers of a station that cost seven million dollars, have not been cleaned since the building opened. It was stated that visibility through the windows is poor. Commissioner McCartney confirmed that money for this task is in the budget, as Speaker 3 had included it in previous years.
- A brief status check was conducted on the Communications Room window tinting. Commissioner McCartney asked for an update on the window tinting for the Communications Room. Chief Paffie confirmed the tinting has not been done. He stated they told Chief Petcosky where he could find the money to get the task completed and that Chief Petcosky had spoken to the relevant party.

25. Announcements

24.1 Upcoming Events and Meetings

- Vestal Fire Dept Fire Expo at Barnes & Noble Parking Lot on October 3, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Fire District Office will be closed on October 12, 2026, for Columbus Day
- Public Hearing for the 2027 Vestal Fire District Budget at 6 p.m. on October 20, 2026
- Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners on October 28, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

26. Executive Session – None other session needed.

27. Motion by Commissioner Tomko, Seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: 0 Absent: 1 (Harrington)

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Bowen
Fire District Secretary